



BILL NO.: House Bill 437
TITLE: Local States of Emergency – Time Period – Extension
POSITION: **SUPPORT**
DATE: February 16, 2012
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
CONTACT: Leslie Knapp Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 437. The bill would extend the time period of a local state of emergency declared by a principal government executive officer without approval from the political subdivision’s governing body from 7 days to 30 days.

The extension grants a reasonable time for a county to address damage from a large-scale and persistent disaster, such as that caused by flooding, hurricanes, ice storms, or power outages. This bill helps avoid entanglements arising from county governing body meeting schedules. According to the bill’s fiscal note, the extension incurs local or State fiscal costs and would not materially affect emergency aid or response from either the State or federal government, including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements.

HB 437 provides a modest extension to the current law, has no fiscal cost, and does not affect federal or State emergency aid or responses. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 437.